



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

187
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/758,640	01/14/2004	Darold Dean Tippey	19,955	5822

23556 7590 01/11/2005

KIMBERLY-CLARK WORLDWIDE, INC.
401 NORTH LAKE STREET
NEENAH, WI 54956

EXAMINER

PICKETT, JOHN G

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3728

DATE MAILED: 01/11/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/758,640

Applicant(s)

TIPPEY, DAROLD DEAN

Examiner

Gregory Pickett

Art Unit

3728

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 January 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>6/7/04 & 12/13/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Art Unit: 3728

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
 2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
 3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
 4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.
1. Claims 1-5, 7-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wright (US 3,145,840) in view of Roussel (US 5,377,837; provided by applicant).

Regarding claims 1, 10, Wright discloses a package **9** with a first sleeve **12** having sidewalls and a first wall (bottom of container); a second sleeve **11** having sidewalls and a second wall **15**; an array of articles **10** aligned as claimed; an opening **16**; and an attachment and release member **17**. Wright is capable of functioning as claimed. Wright lacks, or does not expressly disclose the articles initially retained in a compressed state.

Roussel discloses a package 1 with articles initially stored in a compressed state, which subsequently expand upon opening of the package (see for example, Abstract). Roussel teaches this compression in order to reduce the package volume for storage and transport (Col. 1, lines 30-34). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the location of the attachment and release member 17 to a lower position in order to compress the articles as taught by Roussel for the purpose of reduced volume.

As to claim 2, Wright-Roussel discloses a rectangular cross-sectional configuration.

As to claim 3, Wright-Roussel does not disclose expressly a square cross-sectional area. At the time the invention was made, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to a person of ordinary skill in the art to provide the package of Wright-Roussel in a square cross-sectional area because applicant has not disclosed that the square shape provides an advantage, is used for a particular purpose, or solves a stated problem. One of ordinary skill in the art, furthermore, would have expected applicant's invention to perform equally well with a rectangular or square cross-section. Therefore, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to modify the cross-section of Wright to obtain the invention. A change in form or shape is generally recognized as being within the level of ordinary skill in the art, absent any showing of unexpected results. *In re Dailey et al.*, 149 USPQ 47. A change in aesthetic (ornamental) design generally will not support patentability. *In re Seid*, 73 USPQ 431.

Art Unit: 3728

As to claims 4, 5, 14, and 15, Wright-Roussel discloses the claimed invention except for the specific heights of the sidewalls. It would have been an obvious matter of design choice to provide the sidewalls in the claimed heights, since such a modification would have involved a mere change in the size of a component. A change in size is generally recognized as being within the level of ordinary skill in the art. *In re Rose*, 105 USPQ 237 (CCPA 1955).

As to claims 7 and 8, Wright-Roussel discloses cardboard material (Wright, Col. 2, lines 1-3).

As to claim 9, Roussel discloses a pliable material (see for example Col. 1, lines 8-15). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form the package of Wright-Roussel from a pliable material, since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice. *In re Leshin*, 125 USPQ 416.

As to claims 11 and 12, opening **16** of Wright is sized and shaped as claimed.

As to claim 13, Wright-Roussel discloses the claimed number of articles (Wright, Figure 1)

2. Claims 6 and 16-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wright-Roussel as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Tipping (US 5,219,421).

Art Unit: 3728

Regarding claim 6, Wright-Roussel discloses the claimed invention except for the removable flap.

Tipping discloses a removable flap 104 for an opening 56. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the package of Wright-Roussel with a removable flap as taught by Tipping in order to protect the articles until use.

Regarding claim 16, Wright-Roussel-Tipping, as applied to claim 6 above, discloses the claimed invention.

As to claim 17, Wright-Roussel-Tipping discloses a pull-tab (Wright, **19**).

As to claim 18, Wright-Roussel-Tipping discloses the claimed number of articles (Wright, Figure 1).

As to claim 19, Wright-Roussel-Tipping discloses the claimed invention except for the specific height of the sidewalls. It would have been an obvious matter of design choice to provide the sidewalls in the claimed height, since such a modification would have involved a mere change in the size of a component. A change in size is generally recognized as being within the level of ordinary skill in the art. *In re Rose*, 105 USPQ 237 (CCPA 1955).

As to claim 20, Wright-Roussel-Tipping discloses the claimed volumetric variance (Wright, Figures 1 & 3).


Conclusion

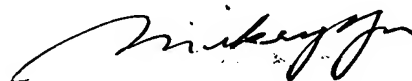
3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gregory Pickett whose telephone number is 571-272-4560. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mickey Yu can be reached on 571-272-4562. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Greg Pickett
Examiner
7 January 2005



Mickey Yu
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group 3700